

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, April 22, 1999

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

At times of conflict we pray for peace; at times of violence we long for serenity; at times of anger and hatred we hope for charity and respect; and at times of senseless acts, we pray for meaning and purpose. O gracious God, from whom all blessings flow, we plead for Your peace that passes all human understanding and we pray for the comfort of Your presence in our lives. Bless all who grieve, give strength to all who suffer, and keep us all in Your grace, now and evermore. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. INSLEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 800) "An Act to provide for education flexibility partnerships."

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 10 one-minutes on each side.

Will the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) kindly assume the Chair.

### HONORING YOSEMITE NATIONAL INSTITUTES ON EARTH DAY 1999

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, what a better way to celebrate Earth Day than to honor the great example of a public-private partnership known as the Yosemite National Institutes, an organization that provides award-winning environmental education programs in America's national parks.

YNI now welcomes more than 32,000 participants each year to its three institutes in the magnificent natural settings of Yosemite and Olympic National Parks as well as the Golden Gate National Recreational Area.

Since its founding in 1971, more than 450,000 school children and adults have experienced YNI programs. The partnership between YNI and the National Park Service is commendable. YNI does not receive government funding, but performs a great percentage of the interpretation in each of the parks where it exists.

At YNI, learning occurs in an advocacy-free environment. Ideas and values are not forced upon students; instead, they learn important processes of applying critical thinking to questions and choices that will confront them now and in the future.

YNI is now celebrating 28 years of extraordinary service. I commend all of those who have contributed to this wonderful program and its achievements.

### SHARING RESPONSIBILITY IN KOSOVO

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, it is time. Time to arm the Kosovo Liberation Army, not send in ground troops. Let Europe send in the ground troops. It would cost less than one night of bombing to arm the KLA, and that is what we should be doing.

It is also time to indict Milosevic for war crimes, and it is also time to recognize independence for Kosovo, and NATO should support and defend those borders.

I think this is something very important, Madam Speaker. No doubt, America is a superpower, but America is not the only power, and it is time for Europe to step up and take care of problems in their own backyard.

### LEARNING OUR HISTORY LESSON OF THE 1960'S

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, it is strange to me that doves and peaceniks, people who dodged the draft and protested the war, now want to wage war in Yugoslavia, while many defense hawks and former military veterans are raising voices of concern and objection.

As a Vietnam veteran, I cannot help but reflect on the mistakes being made by the Clinton administration with the war in the Balkans. The White House does not even want to call it a war; they prefer the term "conflict." Does that mean our POWs are now going to be called POCs?

There are some people who have yet to learn the lessons of Vietnam. The use of limited air strikes can only accomplish limited results. We are witnessing that right now. And having politicians select targets rather than letting military commanders fight the war they know and are trained to do is absolutely wrong.

When President Clinton first initiated the air strikes, we were told we would be in and out in a week or two, and that bully Milosevic would be put in his place. Well, now we are hearing the administration say that we might be in for the long haul, maybe ground troops, an ill-conceived plan obviously from the get-go.

The American people do not know what to believe as this war escalates. We need to learn the history lessons of the 1960's.

### BANKING PRIVACY ACT

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, Americans are generally concerned about their withering rights of privacy, and my fellow Members will be shocked to learn how at-risk those rights are in regard to our banking records.

Serving on the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, I recently learned that we Americans do not even have the right to insist that our banks not disclose our personal financial information, our checking account, our savings account records to other companies, and other companies want these records so that they can market and sell us products.

Madam Speaker, I believe that America ought to have the right to simply inform our banks that those records